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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF KIRKHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

PUBLIC HEALTH, 1972

J. E. MORRIS, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H., M.F.C.M.
Medical Officer of Health

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF KIRKHAM

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1972

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J. E. Morris, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H., M.F.C.M.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. J. Hunt, M.B., B.S. (London), D.P.H. (London)., M.F.C.M.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

A. Young, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

C. C. Burgess, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

A N N U A L H E A L T H R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the

Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1972.

The vital statistics for the area remained generally satisfactory during the year.

My thanks are again due to my colleagues in the Health Department for their loyalty and assistance.

To you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, my appreciation of the encouragement afforded to me.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J.E. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health

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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population	6,436
(at the 1961 census the population was 4,811)	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/72	2,075
Rateable value at 31/12/72	£222,670
Amount produced by a new penny rate	£2,200

VITAL STATISTICS

Births - 100 live births (56 males and 44 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 17.1 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 14.9 per 1,000 in 1971.

Stillbirths - There were no stillbirths during the year. The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths is Nil.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 100.

Deaths - 77 deaths (29 males and 48 females) were registered during the year. The death rate of 13.9 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 13.5 per 1,000 in 1971.

Infantile Mortality - 1 death of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 2 in 1971, giving a rate of 11 per 1,000.

Neo-natal mortality - There were no deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of Nil per 1,000 total live births compared with 22 in 1971.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was Nil compared with 22 in 1971.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) - Number of deaths Nil. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1972.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	T.
Malignant Neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, intestine	1	3	4
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	2	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	11	10	21
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	2	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	13	16
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	1	1
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	4	5	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	2	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	1	-	1
All Other External Causes	-	1	1
	29	48	77

The table below shows the comparisions between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:-

Year	England & Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1968	16.9	11.9	12.9	16.5
1969	16.3	11.9	14.6	14.5
1970	16.0	11.7	17.3	14.5
1971	16.0	11.6	14.9	13.5
1972	14.8	12.1	17.1	13.9

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:-

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. MORRIS, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.C.H., M.F.C.M.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health, Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Pressall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. J. HUNT, M.B., B.S. (LONDON), D.P.H. (LONDON), M.F.C.M.

Public Health Inspector:

A. YOUNG, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

Other appointments held: Surveyor, Building Inspector and Housing Manager with Kirkham U.D.C.

Assistant Public Health Inspector:

C. C. BURGESS, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

Hospital Facilities - For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Mosham Park and Lytham St. Annes, Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital Blackpool and Deepdale Hospital, Preston excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Devonshire Road Hospital. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities - The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles operating through the County's radio scheme.

Laboratory Facilities - Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home - General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics - A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:-

Monday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Monday, a.m. - Chiropody. Aged, Handicapped and Expectant Mothers.

Monday, a.m. - Audiometric (First in Month)

Tuesday, a.m. - Chiropody for Schools (Alternate Tuesday 9-10)

Tuesday, a.m. - Cytology (Cervical Smear Test) (Every 3rd week)

Wednesday, a.m. - Speech Therapy.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Chiropody. Aged, Handicapped and Expectant Mothers.

Wednesday, p.m. - Relaxation Classes.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Thursday, a.m. and p.m. - Immunisations - 10 a.m. - 12 noon
2 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Thursday, a.m. and p.m. - Child Health Clinic.

Friday, p.m. - Ante Natal (Alternate Fridays)

Friday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1972.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified													
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	Age Unknown	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	4						1	2	1					
Whooping Couch														
Acute Poliomyelitis:- Paralytic														
" None Paralytic														
Measles (excluding Rubella)	23	3	2	1	4	2	11							
Diphtheria														
Dysentery														
Meningococcal Infection														
Opthalmic Neonatorum														
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl.)														
Smallpox														
Acute Encephalitis - Infective														
Acute Post Infectious														
Enteric or Typhoid Fever														
Paratyphoid Fevers														
Erysipelas														
Food Poisoning														
Puerperal Pyrexia														
Infective Jaundice														
Other Notifiable Diseases														
Total	27	3	2	1	4	2	12	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Public Health Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council.

In 1972 there were no new cases notified and no deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Kirkham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report for the year 1972.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF THE DISTRICT

Drainage and Sewerage of the District - The main watercourse draining the district is Wrongway Brook, Carr Brook, Dow Brook. Wrongway Brook enters the Urban District in the north west from the Fylde Rural District and flows in a general south east direction across the Urban District (leaving the district as Dow Brook). A second watercourse rising in the south of the district on the former R.A.F. camp site and flowing north via the Orders Lane culvert joins Wrongway Brook to form Carr Brook, on reaching the district boundary it is joined by Spen Brook and is known as Dow Brook on the south eastern boundary of the district.

In the later part of the year Phases I & II of the Fylde Rural and Kirkham Urban District joint sewerage scheme was commissioned. This scheme provides a new Trunk Sewer with Rising Mains and Pumping Stations conveying sewage from Kirkham and the adjoining south Fylde Villages to the Preston Corporation Dispoal Works at Clifton Marsh, replacing the Joint Sewer and Settlement works of the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

The cost of these two phases together with the works of regrading Dow Brook and reculverting part of Wrongway Brook amount to some £1,373,830. The Kirkham Urban District Council proportion of this cost is some £336,244.

With the commissioning of Phases I & II the majority of the properties on Blackpool Road previously on septic tanks were brought onto the main sewer and the re-construction of the Wrongway Brook Culvert eliminated periodic flooding at Milbanke and The Coppice.

Other benefits from this expenditure must await the implementation of "Phase III, the Kirkham Internal Separation Scheme."

This scheme which is an integral part of the joint sewerage scheme calls for the provision of separate foul and surface water sewers in parts of the Urban District and it is not until this scheme is well under way that the flooding of properties in Ribby Road, Bryning Fern Lane, Park Road and Ash Avenue areas will be eliminated or the quality of the Wrongway Brook/Carr Brook Watercourse improved by eliminating the storm sewage overflows which not only operate in times of storm but also when blockages occur in the sewer outlet. The design of the overflows is such that these blockages frequently occur in spite of regular weekly inspections.

Every effort should be made to proceed with the Internal Separation Scheme in order to achieve reduced operational costs, eliminate the risk of flooding of properties and improve the quality of the watercourse.

Work commenced during the year on a gravity sewer to serve parts of the adjoining Fylde Rural District, the open prison and the former R.A.F. Camp Site prior to development for residential use.

Water Supply - Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder with additional supplies from deep bores at Broughton. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this sourse and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. Fluoride is present in the water supply to the extent of 0.1 parts per million.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Complaints - 573 complaints were received during the year many of these being regarding repairs and defects. 1,110 visits were made in connection with this work.

Statutory Nuisances discovered numbered 172 of which 160 were abated the remaining 12 being carried forward to next year.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

During the year under review 11 applications for Standard Grants were received and 11 approved. 28 applications for Improvement Grants were received and 28 were approved. A total of £7,880.00 was paid in grants during the year (£1,159.00 Standard £6,721.00 Improvement Grants.)

During the year the amount of grants payable for approval works was increased to 75% and this encouraged both owner/occupiers and owners of tenanted property to carry out improvement works.

In addition the Council obtained approval to the improvement of 12 pre-war Council Houses with the aid of grants.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

No caravan sites now exist in the town.

DISINFESTATION

The Council spray free of charge houses where infestations are discovered. Free issues of D.D.T. powder are available at the Council Offices. Infestations by Ants are common especially in Council Houses. These properties are treated with a parrafin base insecticide which has proved most effective.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A vacuum steam sterilizer is available at Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool for treatment of affected bedding and clothing.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke nuisances from industrial chimneys occur from time to time in the town although none are considered serious enough to warrant legal action. Very few complaints are received by the Department in this respect but observations are taken on occasions and consultations have taken place with the boilermen and management. During the year a few complaints were received regarding the burning of industrial waste in the open. All these complaints were remedied on inspection of the premises.

The town is fortunate in being surrounded by a green belt and being somewhat isolated from the great conurbations of Lancashire, thus more effective dispersal and dilution with the atmosphere is achieved; however, "lung level" smoke from domestic dwellings still occurs in the winter months, but the steady move towards central heating and smokeless fuels appears to be improving the pollution in this field.

FOOD AND DRUGS

The majority of food establishments in the town continue to maintain a standard consistent with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations by this Department.

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the town and is visited each morning for purposes of meat inspection.

Meat Inspection: All meat for human consumption killed in the town is inspected and stamped with the Council's mark as being fit for human consumption. A charge is made for this service.

Other Foods: The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

32 Lbs 12 Ozs. Meat

Frozen Foods: The undermentioned frozen foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

	Pkts.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Fish	131	55	3
Meat	151	55	2
Fruit & Vegetables	269	112	15
Other Foods	161	32	4

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	245	-	-	1,129	730
Number Inspected	245	-	-	1,129	730
All Diseases - except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	103	-	-	348	256
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	42.0%	-	-	30.8%	35.0%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases or which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned ..	-	-	-	-	-

Milk Supply and Distribution

Dairies in the district 7

Shops in the district other than dairies 5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only "Specially Designated" milk (that is pasteurised, sterilised or untreated milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 which came into force on the 29th September, 1963.

ICE CREAM

37 Premises are registered with the Council for the sale and storage of Ice Cream. These have all been inspected and found satisfactory.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

Ten samples of Ice Cream were obtained and sent to the Laboratory for statutory examination, all these samples satisfied the tests.

SWIMMING BATH WATER SAMPLING

Eight samples of swimming bath water from Kirkham Baths and eight from Pear Tree House School Swimming Pool were obtained and sent for examination. All these samples returned satisfactory results with the exception of five samples. Three of these were from Kirkham Baths and two from Pear Tree School. Further samples proved satisfactory.

MEAT PRODUCTS

Four premises are registered with the Council for the manufacture of made-up products. Since ice cream and partly cooked meat products are particularly viable and highly susceptible to contamination these premises require constant supervision and inspection in order to maintain a high standard of hygiene.

Food Sampling by the Lancashire County Council.

1 Part Jam of Baby Food
1 Mixed Dried Fruit
1 Almond Flakes
1 Zinc and Castor Oil Cream
1 Dried Parsley
1 Ground Almonds
1 Jam
1 Sultanas
1 Marmalade
1 Coffee and Chicory Essence, Sweetened
1 Sage
1 Chocolate Syrup
1 Gravy Salt

I give below those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:-

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Part Jar of Baby Food	The grub submitted was a larva of Brown House Moth (Hofmannophila Pseudospretella) but it was still alive and could not have been associated with the food.	Public Health Inspector, Kirkham, informed and will take the necessary action.
Coffee and Chicory Essence, Sweetened	Caffine content only 0.2% v/v. When Coffee and Chicory Extract contains less than 0.25% Caffine the manufacture must be prepared to show that he has used not less than 2 lbs of roasted coffee for every gallon of extract.	Manufacturer communicated with.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of household and certain trade refuse in the area.

The number of men engaged on the work up to July 1972 was as follows:-

1	Driver	Full-time
5	Loaders	Full-time
1	Driver	Part-time
2	Salvage Collectors	Part-time
1	Salvage Baler	Part-time

In August, the Council purchased a new refuse collection vehicle and implemented a bonus scheme for refuse collection. This scheme reduced the men engaged on refuse collection and disposal to six and the new vehicle eliminated the necessity to run two vehicles.

Due to a decrease in demand from the Mills for waste paper the Council stopped baling cardboard and paper. This is now removed along with the normal refuse collection.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping at the Clifton Marsh Works of the Preston County Borough.

The Council provide a Dump at the Council Yard off Station Road for use under the Civic Amenities Act and also remove rubbish with the normal Refuse Collection, but unfortunately some people do not appear to wish to take advantage of this service and indiscriminate dumping takes place in certain areas of the District.

During the year three Motor Vehicles were removed at no costs to the Council.

OFFICES AND SHOPS ACT 1963

The total number of premises on the register is 78. 39 visits were made to registered premises during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

109 properties including business premises were treated during the year for infestations of Rats and Mice. One workman is employed on a part-time basis as a Rodent Operative and has attended Ministry Courses in modern methods of control.

The brooks require frequent inspection and control but no large scale infestation has been found.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Thirteen premises are licensed to store petroleum. The majority of storage is in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 39,200 gallons.

FACTORY ACT 1961

There are some 22 Factories registered with the Council. Certain provisions of the Act are administered by this Department and in this connection inspections were made during the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

There are few complaints regarding noise in the town but where this occurs it has always been possible to abate the nuisance informally and without re-course to legal action.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Book	2, 075
Number of new houses erected during year:	
(a) By Local Authority	-
(b) By other bodies or persons	66
Number of houses closed or demolished during the year	6
Number of persons displaced	7
Number of houses owned by Local Authority	324
Number of Houses represented either as individule unfit properties or included in clearance areas	-
Number of improvement grant applications received during the year	28
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	11
Number of standard grants approved during the year	11

STAFF

I would like to express my thanks to members of the Staff, the Foreman and all Workmen, for their excellent and willing co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. YOUNG.